

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

BALOZE (See sketch "A")

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1. A Soviet unit of armored troops was stationed in barracks in the woods at Baloze, 11 km east-northeast of the center of Riga, on the north side of the Riga-Sigulda highway. These troops were quartered in brick-built winter barracks which were screened by trees; from what could be seen, it was estimated that there were at least 600 troops there. They wore black shoulder boards. Behind (i.e., north of) the barracks tanks stood in rows; as many as 20 were seen at once, and there may well have been more. These tanks had a suspension like that of a T-34 tank, with no apron over the tracks. The gun had no mantlet, but on some of the tanks the gun was equipped with a muzzle brake, on others, not. When pointing forward, half the barrel projected beyond the front of the tank. The turret was like that of a T-34, and in some cases carried a machine gun on top. All these tanks had a machine gun beside the driver's visor. An object like a finger, perhaps a periscope, projected upwards from the turret, in addition to the radio mast. Parked near the tanks were also rows of this unit's own trucks.

LILASTE (See sketch "A" also)

2. At Lilaste, 30 km northeast of Riga, there was a camp for armored troops exactly 34 km from Riga. Two meters south of the kilometer stone, a new concrete roadway led north west through the trees for 200 meters past a ruined villa and on towards Lake Umma. Beyond the lake, on both sides of the railway, there were timber barracks in the woods. It was not possible to estimate the number of troops in them.
3. Tank tracks leading from the direction of Lake Umma crossed the road at a "mat" of wired saplings (protecting the asphalt) at a point about one km south of the kilometer stone mentioned; the tracks then ran along parallel to the road, on its western side; until about 200 meters north of the kilometer stone these tracks turned eastward into the woods. Each groove in the earth was about 85 cm wide and some 70 cm deep, with a space of about 2 meters between the two grooves. This training ground is believed to extend eastwards for about 10 km.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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4. The tanks themselves were first seen there in June 1954. Four of them crossed the road over the "mat" of saplings, from east to west, and there were other tanks ahead and behind. They were very heavy tanks, with a suspension resembling that of the JS-2.

DOBELE (See sketch "C")

5. At Dobele, 65 km of Riga, there was another tank training ground, six km northwest of the old town. Two or three tanks resembling T-34s were seen on several occasions crossing the Dobeles-Tukums road, entering the tank training ground, which is on the south side of the road. Troops were camped in an area immediately west of the tank training ground, but these were definitely air force troops. It is probable that the tank troops were quartered in Dobeles new town.
6. Two km north-northwest of Dobeles, a new military town has been built, with many brick-built barracks, two- and three-story dwelling blocks, mess halls, and sports fields. It was hidden from the main road by trees except at a few points; but, judging from columns of men seen marching, there must have been at least 1,000 troops there. A general officer has been seen in Dobeles. Immediately northwest of the new military town were new premises for an experimental aircraft works.

RIGA

7. The former Arsenal in Riga has been made a repair workshop for tanks and guns. Self-propelled guns have been seen in the streets of Riga, testing movements after repair. These self-propelled guns generally resembled the JSU-2 type, having a short gun with an external mantlet, a flat glacis with a rounded hull front, and tracks which returned on idler wheels. Behind the gun was a long rectangular troop compartment, with a flat roof, apparently of metal, slightly higher than the gun and extending all the way to the back of the chassis. Hinged doors at the back were normally left open, and several troops could be seen sitting inside facing each other. (See sketch "B").
8. Krusta Barracks on Huzaru iela, north of the Riga-Vaiga railway, contained troops with black shoulder boards (last date of information: summer 1954). Convoys of 8 to 10 tanks were frequently seen leaving and arriving at the barracks. The description of these tanks tallies with the T-34 (85). The area of Krusta barracks has been considerably reduced in size by the newly built electric power station on the east side of the barracks (side opposite to Huzaru iela). The unit or formation which occupied these barracks, although by no means a national Latvian unit, was probably the unit of the Soviet Army stationed in Latvia with the largest proportion of Latvian nationals. It undoubtedly had elements stationed at Baloze, Lilaste, and Murjani (40 km east-northeast of Riga, just north of the Sigulda road) because individual soldiers serving with this unit visited these places for periods of varying length. Baloze, Lilaste, and Murjani locations were occupied by troops in winter as well as in summer.

ARTILLERY SITES

9. Eight antiaircraft guns of unknown caliber (the barrel had no jacket, muzzle brake, or visible recoil mechanism) were permanently located in grassed pits on the bombed site between Soneru iela, Kugu iela, Akmenu iela, Kliversalas Quay on the west bank of the Daugava between the two bridges. This site was surrounded by a palisade, and its personnel were billeted partly in heated dug-outs on the site and partly in the adjoining block of houses between Kugu iela, Akmenu iela, Valguma iela and Soneru iela. (Date of information: summer 1954).

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10. The pier on the west bank of the Daugava, northern continuation of Kliversalas Krast, was a prohibited area. Several guns of unknown caliber, barrels approximately six feet long and always in a horizontal position, were visible near the extremity of the pier. The gun crews lived under canvas, also on the pier. (Date of information: summer 1954.)
11. At least six antiaircraft guns, similar to those in paragraph 9 above, were permanently in place on the west bank of Maza Daugava near the monument to Peter the Great on the Jumprava Sala. The gun crews lived on the site summer and winter.

OTHER MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS IN RIGA

12. Barracks within the quadrangle Pernavas iela, Rudolfa iela, Ata iela, and Krona iela have not changed in aspect since 1940. They had not been seen since about 1951, when they contained infantry troops, strength unknown.
13. Some air force units were located in the area enclosed by Samarina iela, Reznas iela, Aiviekstes iela, and the railway as well as on the north side of Aiviekstes iela. These units are believed to be mainly:
 - a. School for junior air force officers
 - b. School for air force cadets (not DOSAAF)
14. Riga Military Tribunal and Prison was located in the area Gildes iela, Kaleju iela, Laipu iela, between the "Filharmonia" concert hall and the Trade Unions Concert Hall. The prison was heavily guarded by roving armed guards.
15. The State Motor-Transport Inspectorate (Gosudarstvennaya Avto-Inspektsiya) was located at Raina Bulvars 6.
16. The Town Prosecutor's Office (Prokuratura) was on Raina Bulvars, being the second building north of the crossing with Brivabas iela.
17. On the Raina Bulvars, immediately south of the same crossing, there was a building permanently under armed guard. Generals have been seen visiting this building and the most expensive Soviet cars were stationed outside it.
18. On Raina Bulvars, immediately south of the bombed site on the southeast corner of the crossing with Barona iela, was the Army Medical Directorate (Meditsinsko-Sanitarnoye Upravleniye Pribaltyskogo Voyennogo Okruga).
19. The prewar Latvian Government Headquarters building on the northwest corner of the crossing of Valdemara iela and Kirova iela was under permanent armed guards at the entrance on each street. A car believed to belong to the officer commanding the Baltic Naval Forces frequently stood outside this building.
20. Barracks on Bauskas iela (at the southern edge of Riga on the west bank of the Daugava) were occupied.
21. MVD headquarters in Riga were located in a building at the eastern end of the north side of Zellu iela, which is 200 meters north of the lake known as Marasdzirnar Dikis in the western part of Riga.
22. Numerous civilian buildings in Riga were occupied by the Soviet Army as billets. Military personnel slept in two-tiered bunks which could be seen through the windows.

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TRAINING

23. During winter, ski training, with and without white camouflage, frequently took place in all suitable places in Riga. On some occasions groups of some fifty officers were seen exercising in the wooded areas west of the Daugava. Numerous instances of ski training were seen during the winter 1953-54 as well as in previous winters.
24. A river crossing exercise was seen some miles west of Bolderaja (10 km north-northwest of Riga) in summer 1954. Personnel wore either shorts or overalls, tight fitting at the neck, and a mask over the mouth and nose; they carried no arms, equipment, or uniforms. They crossed under the surface, in single file, presumably holding on to a rope laid beforehand.
25. No maneuvers on a large scale comparable to maneuvers of the Latvian Army before 1940 were ever seen or heard of. Large single exercises with the participation of 20 to 30 tanks and a few hundred troops were held in the area of Cesis (80 km east-northeast of Riga), invariably in autumn (late September and beginning of October), after the harvest.
26. Summer training took place in the area Lilaste Murjane, Saulkrasti (45 km north-northeast of Riga) and inland of the eastern shore of the Gulf of Riga.

CALL-UP and RESERVE TRAINING

27. Call-up notices for recruits of the 1935-1936 class were posted in Riga during August 1954.
28. Latvian nationals on call-up reported to the Voenkomat of their place of residence and were immediately routed to a Soviet Army unit not necessarily located in Latvia. Possibly larger groups of recruits were sent to Krusta barracks, Balzã, or Insterburg than elsewhere, but recruits were also sent much further afield into Russia, individually or in groups, disregarding any language difficulty that might exist.
29. Reservists were called up for periods of:
 - a. One month (privates)
 - b. Three months (NCOs and officers)
 - c. One year (NCOs and officers). NCOs were sometimes promoted after their three months or one year of training.
30. Specialist reservists were at times called up through the Voenkomat into the Army and posted to some major civilian enterprise such as Volga-Don, Kuzbas, etc., in their specialist capacity.

MILITARY AREAS

31. The following were the towns of Latvia with major concentration of troops:

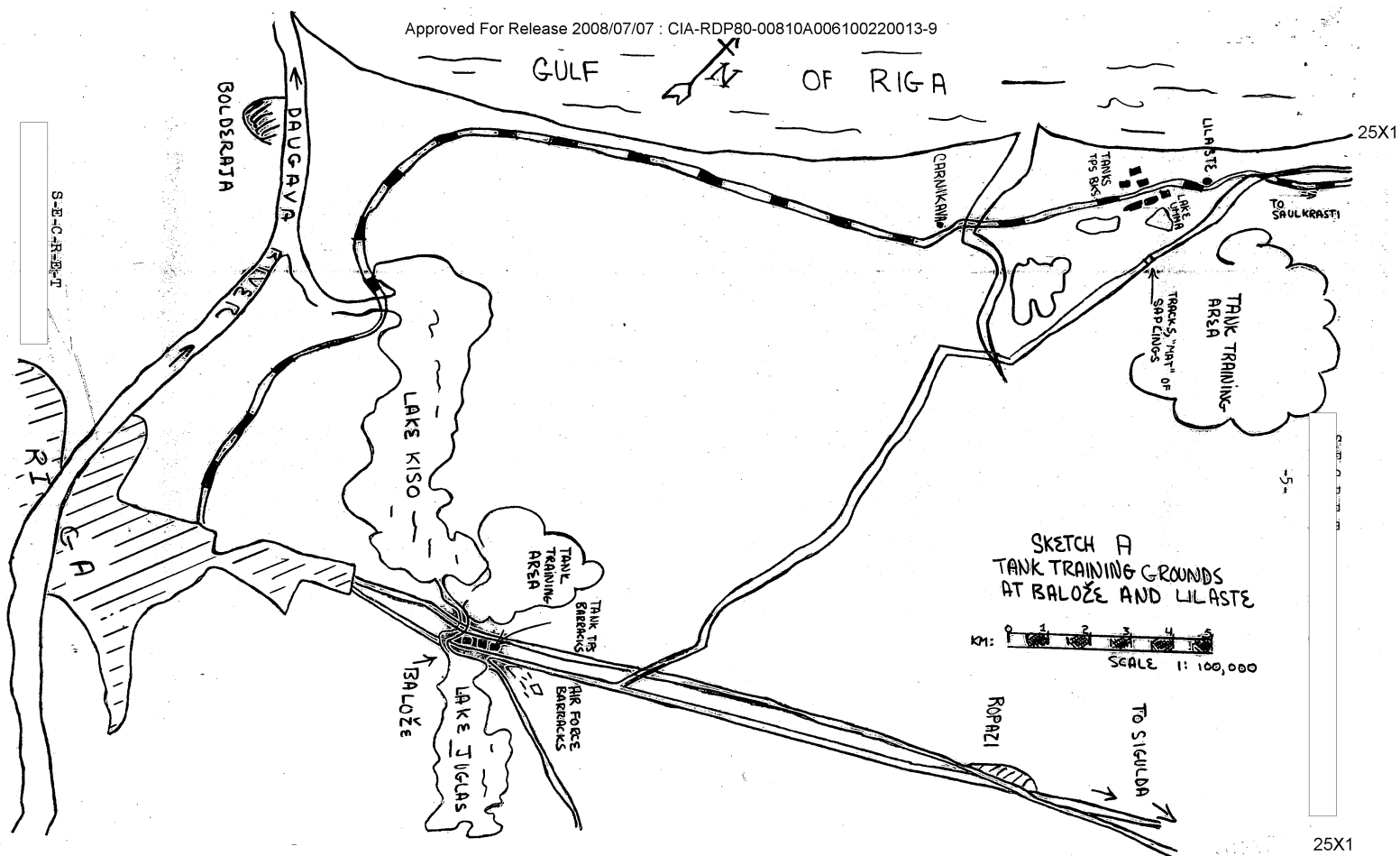
Riga
 Dobeles (65 km southwest of Riga)
 Tukums (60 km west of Riga)
 Saldus (105 km west-southwest of Riga)
 Kemeris (40 km west of Riga)
 Bolderaja (10 km west-northwest of Riga)
 Daugavpils (12 km west-northwest of Riga)
 Carnikava (25 km north-northeast of Riga)
 Vecpils (infantry and probably aviation school)
 Jelgava (few troops but an airfield)

32. Prohibited areas were:

- a. Daugavgriva (naval)
- b. Coast area Lilaste to Pabari

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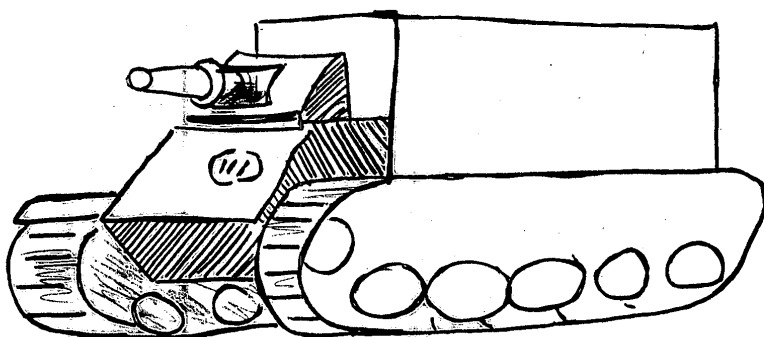


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SP GUN SEEN IN STREETS OF RIGA



REAR VIEW



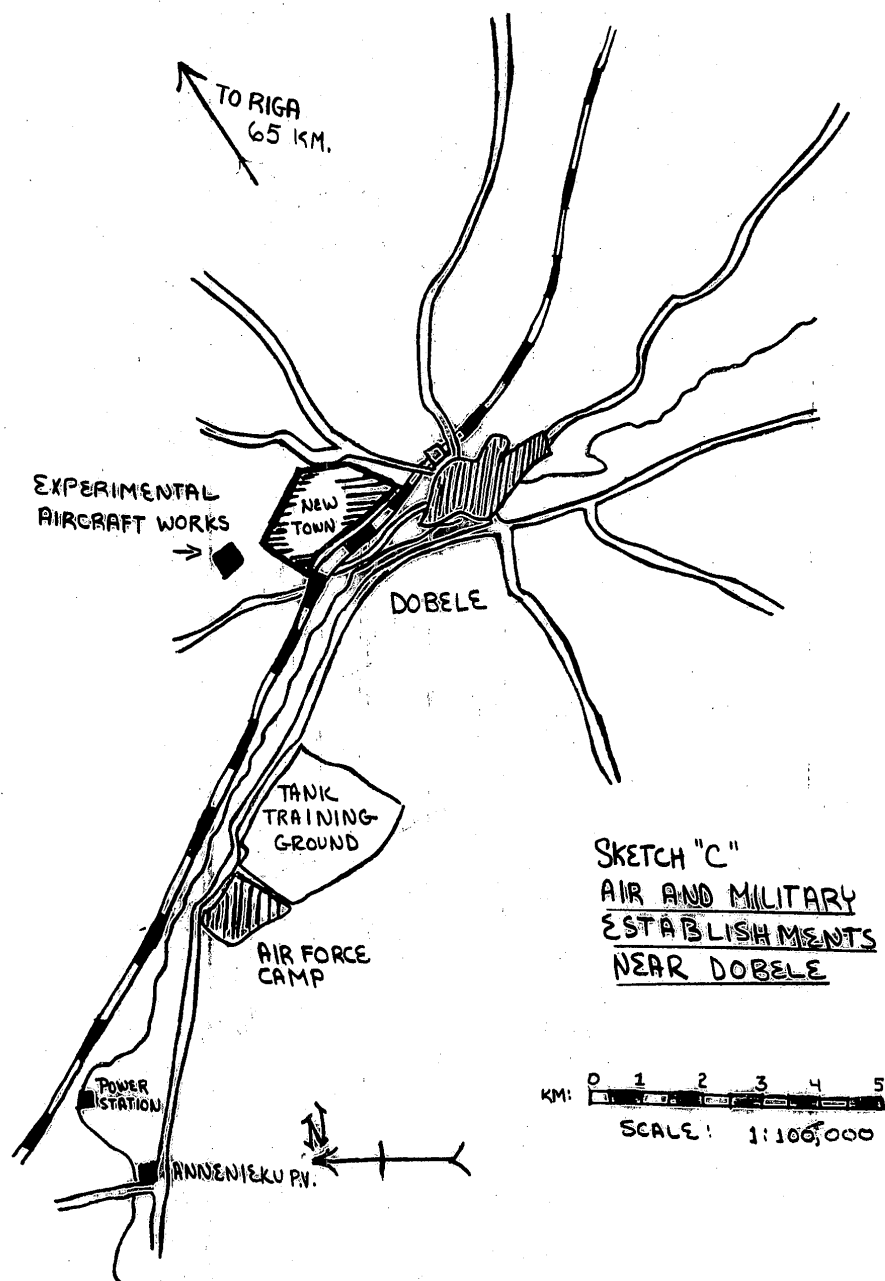
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